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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Hasina goes to Gouripur today

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina goes to Gouripur this morning to campaign for her party candidate in the October 15 by-election to parliament. She will address public meetings and wadeside gatherings, reports UNB.

#### Speaker back home

The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Shaikh Razaque Ali, returned home yesterday after attending the 38th conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas. He was received at the airport by the Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, reports BSS.

#### DU classes resume today

All classes of the Dhaka University resume today after a nine-day Durga Puja and autumn vacation. The vacation began on October 3. Most of the resident students have returned to their respective dormitories, reports UNB.

#### AL advisory body meets Thursday

The advisory council of Awami League will meet at 10 am on Thursday at the party central office. The newly formed 15-member council meeting will be presided over by party chief Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

## JS autumn session gets off to stormy start

# Walkout marks placing of anti-terrorism ordn

By Staff Correspondent

The much talked about anti-terrorism ordinance was laid before the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday amid walkout by the opposition following a stormy debate for over two hours.

After the arguments on the ordinance, Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali gave his ruling and said that all the four ordinances including Suppression of Terroristic Offences Ordinance 1992 had been laid.

The House experienced heated atmosphere on the very first day of the autumn session when the Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz laid the ordinances. The three other ordinances are: the Supreme Court Judges (Re-

muncration and Privileges) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, The Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) (Amendment) Ordinance and the Excise and Salt (Amendment) Ordinance.

The anti-terrorism ordinance promulgated by the President on September 15 was vehemently criticized by the opposition political parties of the country.

During the debate, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and 14 other opposition MPs said that the President could not promulgate the anti-terrorism ordinance as another bill with same contents of the ordi-

nance was pending 'before the House from February. They termed the promulgation of the ordinance as 'unconstitutional' and an 'arbitrary example of bypassing Parliament.

Condemning the ordinance, Sheikh Hasina termed its promulgation as defrauding Parliament and the nation.

She said that the government introduced a bill with similar contents as there are in anti-terrorism ordinance eight months ago which had been sent to a special parliamentary committee for consideration.

She alleged that the gov- See Page 12 Col 1

### PM tells Gouripur poll rally

## Choose 'right man' to ensure development

MYMENSINGH, Oct 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said her government's development programmes focused on villages as country's overall uplift was not possible without changing the lot of the peasantry, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is a poor agrarobased country. There will be no progress of the country without improving the condition of the farmers," she told an election rally at Gouripur today.

The development pro-

grammes of the present government are all rural based aimed at making the country self-reliant," Begum Zia said.

She said a wave of the "sheaf of paddy," the election symbol of ruling BNP, was still flowing across the country and called upon the people to vote for her party candidate Advocate Nazmul Huda in the October 15 parliamentary bye-election in Gouripur constituency.

The Jatiya Sangsad seat fell vacant with the death of Awami See Page 12 Col 7



by Sabir Mustafa

The government managed to lay — that's the word they use in parliament, lay — the Suppression of Terroristic Offences Ordinance 1992, thanks to Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali and his interpretation of Indian parliamentary procedures given by Kaul and Shadgar.

The Opposition, spear-headed by Suranjit Sengupta See Page 12 Col 7



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Shambhuganj in Mymensingh yesterday. — PID photo

## 60 killed in Kerala floods

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Sixty-five people have died and many others are reported missing in floods which have swept away homes and farms in two southern Indian states, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today, reports AFP.

At least 60 people had died in eight worst-hit districts of the coastal state of Kerala by a Sunday evening official count, PTI said, adding that the Kerala government had sent an SOS to New Delhi for federal assistance.

Troops have joined relief and rescue efforts in the state where the floods have left scores of people homeless and washed away thousands of acres (hectares) of farmland reports said.

Pounding rain has also disrupted road and rail traffic and snapped power supplies and communication lines, forcing the provincial government to shut schools and colleges for

two days. Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao had offered to send relief supplies to southern India, Kerala Chief Minister K Karunakaran said, adding that army helicopters would be called in to rescue marooned people if needed.

Air force officials in New Delhi said its southern command was being alerted to help Kerala's flood-affected people.

PTI said flash floods triggered by torrential rains since Friday had also killed five others in Kerala's adjoining state of Tamil Nadu, where several river dams were threatening to burst.

Unofficial reports in Tamil Nadu said another 16 people in its southernmost district of Kanya Kumari were reported missing since Friday, but there was no confirmation of this figure.

In Kerala, the administra-

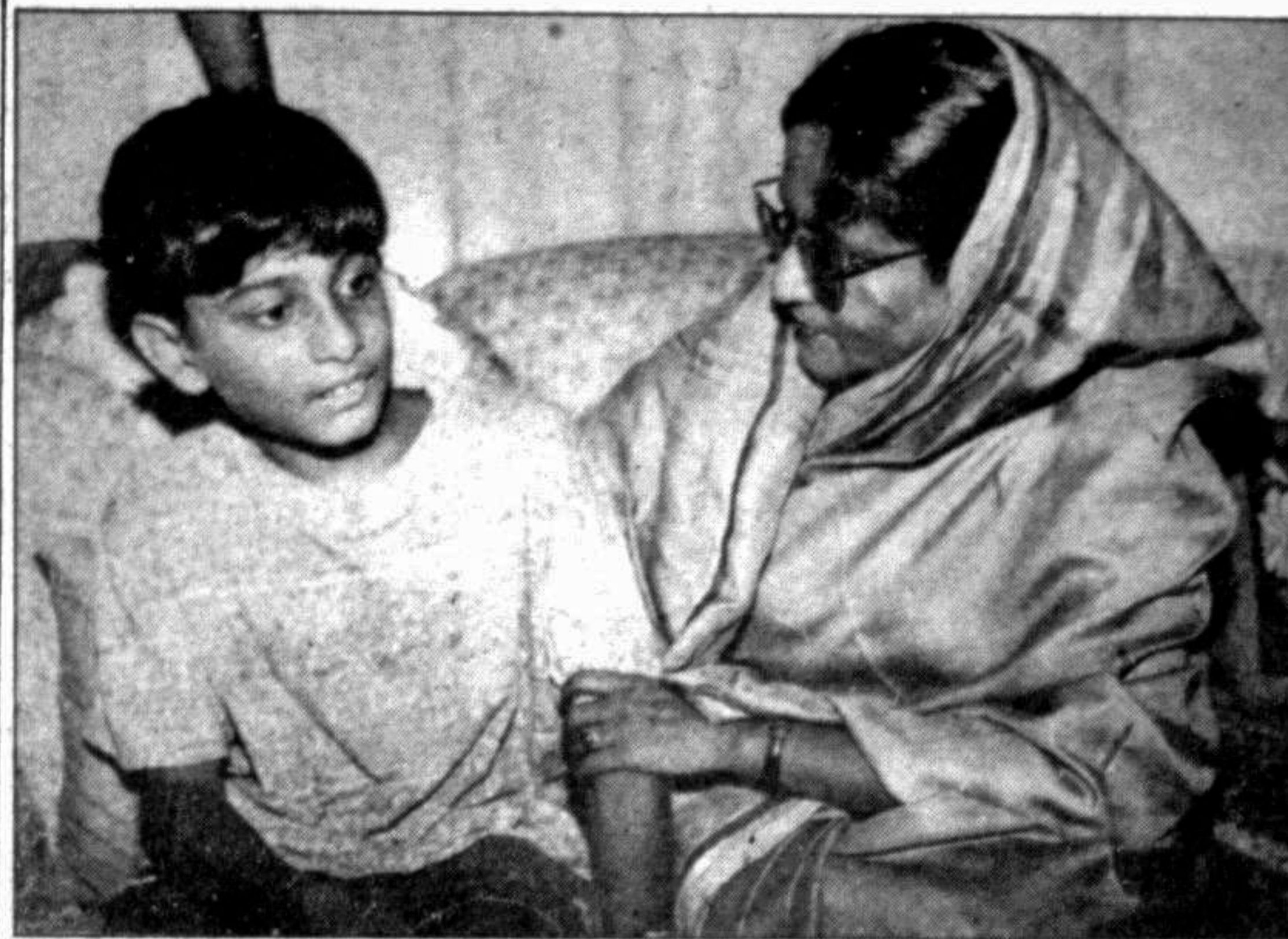
tion decided today to pay 10,000 rupees (300 dollars) to relatives of each of those killed in the floods, and half that sum to people who have lost their homes.

It set up 100 relief camps in the site capital of Trivandrum for some 3,000 families rescued from their drowned villages, PTI said.

The administration was readying boats in areas such as Ernakulam and Trivandrum to ferry out people stranded on top of their submerged homes. PTI said, adding that flood alerts had been sounded in other parts of the state.

People living on the banks of rapidly swelling rivers have been told to escape to safety as local weather authorities warned of no immediate respite from the monsoon fury.

More "vigorous" rain was forecast for today and tomorrow.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina consoling Prime Minister's nephew Atanu at his cantonment residence in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### House to discuss 'Push back'

By Staff Correspondent

The House yesterday unanimously agreed to discuss the 'Operation push back' drive initiated by India recently. The agreement came after 29 members gave notices of as many adjustment motions on the issue.

However, the Treasury Bench and the Opposition members were divided about the format for the discussions. The Treasury bench members advocated for holding the discussion on an adjournment motion while the Opposition sought a general discussion on the issue.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali referred See Page 12 Col 6

## BSF pushes in more violating pledge

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 11: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) today filled up all the front line bunkers along the Bangladesh border opposite Ghatpur area of Sharsha thana of the district.

Official sources here said today that the BSF had informed that they would fill up the rest of the bunkers, dug within 150 yards of the international boundary line, by tomorrow.

However, the BSF men tried to dig four new trenches on their soil opposite Sadpur of Sharsha but stopped when the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) protested.

Meanwhile, violating the assurance given at the flag meeting yesterday, the BSF attempted thrice to push 55 people into Bangladesh through different bordering villages today, according to official sources.

The BSF pushed 15 people through Sadpur of Sharsha thana and another 40 through Chougacha of the district. BDR sent them back.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna quoting BDR sources reported that about 92 Indian nationals were brought by Indian civilians in collaboration See Page 12 Col 6

### Mostafiz holds talks with opposition over 'push back'

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman held a meeting with opposition leaders and discussed the situation arising out of the Indian 'operation push back' and staying of some 270,000 Myanmar refugees.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Awami League Leader Abdus Samad Azad and Abul Hassan Chowdhury met the Foreign Minister at the stateguest house Meghna Saturday night.

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## Revenue collection exceeds target

By Inam Ahmed

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) had a good start this year as its revenue collection exceeded the target by a comfortable amount.

The revenue collection for the first quarter (July-September) of fiscal 1992-93 was targeted at Taka 1797.48 crore. The collection stood at Taka 1808.91 crore which was about 116 per cent over the target.

Last year the collection was Taka 1465.01 crore. NBR sources said the signif-

icant collection was due to the streamlining of the taxation system in the budget.

The self-assessment system of income tax is reported to have had a good effect as this quarter's collection was Taka 215.58 crore as against last year's Taka 182.34 crore for the same period. The target of income tax collection for the period was only Taka 200 crore.

However, the value added tax (VAT) collection fell short See Page 12 Col 5

### Time for report on Indemnity Bill extended

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament has granted the special parliamentary committee on Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill thirty days more for making a draft report on the bill seeking removal of the constitutional bar to try people involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The time was extended last night following by the committee members: a unanimous appeal to the Speaker.

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, chairman of the committee, while making the appeal on behalf of the committee members told the Speaker that they needed thirty days more for finalising the report on the issue. The chairman of the committee, however, said that it would be

See Page 12 Col 2

## 'Circulation primary criterion for ads'

By Staff Correspondent

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Sunday told the Parliament that circulation of a newspaper was the primary yardstick for distribution of government advertisements and that there was no government advertisement policy in the country.

Replying to a question of Dharendra Devnath Shambhu (AL-Barguna), the Information Minister said that a committee comprising the newspaper owners, editors and journalist leaders was working on drafting an advertisement policy.

Answering to another question Huda said that nearly Taka 7.75 crore was paid as advertisement bills to different newspapers by the Department of Film and Publication (DFP) during the fiscal 1991-92. The outstanding bill in the

current fiscal year now stands at about Taka 7 crore and till September 30, the authorities paid Taka 2.43 crore. The rest will be paid with the release of funds, he added.

He gave a list of 77 dailies, of which 33 are from Dhaka, and four advertisement agencies through which the advertisements were distributed.

Replying to another question from Rahmat Ali (AL-Gazipur) the Information Minister said that 19 dailies, 61 weeklies, 23 fortnightlies and 29 monthlies had been given permission since January 1, 1992.

BSS adds: According to the list given by the Information Minister The Daily Inqilab received the highest payment amounting to Taka 70.58 lakh. See Page 12 Col 8

### 11 cops suspended

## Hasina regrets incident involving Atanu

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Sunday visited the Cantonment residence of (ret'd) Syed Iskander, brother of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, and expressed her deep concern over the Saturday's incident in which Iskander's nine-year old son Atanu was forced out of his car and detained inside the Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmandi Road No 32 by a group of miscreants for about an hour.

Hasina expressed her surprise at the incident and shock at the trauma that the boy had suffered. She expressed her deep regret at the incident to Atanu's mother.

Meanwhile, the authorities have suspended 11 police constables who were on duty in the area on Saturday during the incident.

See Page 12 Col 4

### Byelection in Rajbari-1 today

RAJBARI, Oct 11: The stage is set for holding by-election in Rajbari-1 constituency tomorrow (Monday) under a strict monitoring for smooth hustings, reports UNB.

Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers have already reached their respective polling stations along with ballots and other voting requisites, the district administration said.

An all-time control room has been set up in the district administration conference hall to conduct the polls.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf, the Secretary of the Commission and other high officials have come here to monitor the election.

Polling takes place in 84 voting centers in 17 unions, including one in the pourashava, from 7am to 3 pm without any break.

A total of 1,90,663 voters will exercise their franchise.

Four candidates are in the run for the vacant seat. They are Quazi Keramat Ali of Awami League, MA Khaleque of BNP, Munshi Abdul Latif of Jatiya Party and Advocate Nurul Islam of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The JS seat fell vacant with the death of Advocate Abdur Wazed Chowdhury of AL on July 31.

## Gunmen attack bank escort, loot Tk 16 lakh

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 11: An armed gang attacked an Agrani Bank escort and looted Tk 16 lakh and two rifles on board a launch today, reports UNB.

The dacoits stabbed one of the three armed guards of the bank, beat up two others and confined Principal Officer Abul Kashem into the toilet of MV Neela during the holdup, officials said.

They were going with the money from the bank's head office to the Nabinagar branch. When the launch came near Sindura on river Titas, the gang of 15 to 20 people in disguise of passengers, swooped on the guards.

They snatched a bag loaded with the bank money and escaped by an engine-boat.

The bank AGM confirmed the incident and said a case would be lodged in this connection.

The stabbed guard was admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition, sources said.

## JCD activist picked up from DU campus

Police picked up a Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist from the Dhaka University campus yesterday for interrogation, reports UNB.

Golam Gaus, a final year Statistics student of the university and resident of Jasmuddin Hall, was picked up from in front of the Surjansen Hall cafeteria at about 11.30 am.

Campus sources said police acted on a tip that Gaus, a militant supporter of the arrested JCD leader Ilias, was seen at Surjansen Hall for the first time in the morning since the September 4 killing of Mamun and Mahmud on the campus.

Ramma police said at 8 last night that Gaus was under interrogation.

# Zardari acquitted of crucial mass murder charge

KARACHI, Oct 11: A Pakistani court on Saturday acquitted opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari of masterminding the murder of 29 people, reports Reuters.

Prison sources said Zardari, who was arrested in October 1990, was still being held to face other charges, although Saturday's acquittal was his fifth so far.

The murder conspiracy was one of most serious among more than 10 charges brought against Zardari after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked

Bhutto as Prime Minister in August 1990 on disputed charges of misuse.

Bhutto and several of her former government ministers are also facing trial by special courts empowered to disqualify them from Parliament.

Judge Kazi Mohammad Akbar in his statement said none of 34 prosecution witnesses he examined had supported the charge against Zardari.

The prosecutor also conceded that no prima facie case was made out against Zardari and there was no other evi-

dence in the police file to make out a case for conviction, he said.

"I therefore acquit Asif Ali Zardari in this case. He may be released forthwith if not required in any other case," said the judge from the Special Court for Suppression of Terrorist Activities.

The murder conspiracy charge against Zardari and some other prominent members of Bhuttos' Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) related to an August 22, 1990 incident, when gunmen opened fire on the activists of anti-PPP

Mohajir National Movement (MQM).

AFP adds: Benazir Bhutto congratulated party supporters today after her husband's acquittal which observers saw as a major victory for her as well.

Congratulating party workers, Bhutto, a former premier, said "false cases" had been framed against PPP leaders soon after her dramatic dismissal by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on August 6, 1990.

"Truth always triumphs," said Bhutto, who is herself facing trial in more than half a dozen cases of alleged abuse of

power during her 20-month rule.

Elated PPP workers who had been staging a sit-in for Zardari's release in Islamabad's busy shopping complex were jubilant as their protest entered its 44th day, but said they would continue.

The mass murder case was crucial for the Bhuttos as a conviction could have sent Zardari to the gallows or life imprisonment.

Reuters adds: Benazir Bhutto led an opposition boycott of the parliament's lower house today after clashing with the

government over an alleged attempt to kill her last month.

Bhutto and other deputies of her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) marched out of the House after national assembly speaker Gohar Ayub Khan gave short shrift to their accusations.

Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain denied the PDA charge that ruling party members attacked Bhutto's caravan with gunfire, stones and sticks when she visited Multan in Punjab province last month to meet victims of devastating floods.